

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /065 W

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O P 171230Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6124

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU, GR, CY, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS TOVIMA ARTICLE ON U.S. SUPPORT  
FOR DEMIREL AND TURKEY

1. JANUARY 17 GUNAYDIN AND MILLIYET CARRY ATHENS DATELINED  
STORIES ALLEGEDLY BASED ON TOVIMA ARTICLE ASSERTING THAT  
AMBASSADOR MACOMBER REPORTED TO WASHINGTON THAT PRIMIM DEMIREL  
"CAN LAST UNTIL MARCH". (MILLIYET VERSION DIFFERED SLIGHTLY:  
"DEMIREL, WHO IS GRADUALLY EXHAUSTING HIS POLITICAL STRENGTH,  
CAN LAST ONLY UNTIL MARCH.") ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE,  
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAVOR  
DEMIREL OVER ECEVIT. THEREFORE, A TURKISH-BIASED PLAN FOR  
THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS WILL BE  
REVEALED IN APRIL AND WILL ASSIST DEMIREL IN THE ELECTIONS.

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THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL  
SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE U.S.- TURKISH DEFENSE  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) BY CREATING AN IMPRESSION THAT  
SOLUTIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS DISPUTES.

2. THE TURKISH PAPERS REPORT THAT THE TOVIMA ARTICLE EXPRESSED  
DOUBTS THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY SUDDEN CHANGE IN U.S.

POLICY SINCE THE NEW FORMULAE BEING SOUGHT BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE ARE "BASED ON REPORTS PREPARED BY KISSINGER AND HIS COLLEAGUES". THE TOVIMA ARTICLE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSES AN UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE SINCE HE "WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MIDDLE EAST BUREAU CHIEF HARTMAN (SIC) WHO HAS AN UNFAVORABLE ATTITUDE FROM THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW".

3. JANUARY 17 PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN EDITORIALIZES, BASED ON THE TO VIMA ARTICLE, THAT GREECE "WHO CANNOT GET RID OF THE FIXATION THAT IN THE SUBJECT OF CYPRUS, AMERICA ALWAYS BACKS TURKEY, IS AGAIN CARRIED AWAY WITH THE IDEA OF MAKING NEW PLOTS TO GAIN TIME." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "ATHENS MUST KNOW THIS POINT WELL EACH STEP SHE TAKES TO PREVENT PEACE WILL ONLY SERVE TO FORTIFY THE DE FACTO SITUATION IN CYPRUS."

4. COMMENT: THE TOVIMA STORY HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT BUT NOT SENSATIONAL COVERAGE BY TURKISH PRESS. FACT THAT STORY ALLEGES PRO-TURKISH BIAS BY U.S. SHOULD LIMIT ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT. NEVERTHELESS, THE IMPLICATION THAT U.S. HAS DISTINCT PREFERENCE FOR DEMIREL GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF REINFORCING THAT BELIEF WITHIN THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP). FOR THIS REASON, AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ACCURACY, EMBASSY INTENDS ON IF ASKED (AND ON BACKGROUND) BASIS TO INDICATE THAT AMBASSADOR HAS NOT RPT NOT MADE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN TOVIMA STORY. WE ALSO INTEND TO MAKE SAME POINT WITH SELECTED JOURNALISTS IN COURSE OF OUR NORMAL CONTACTS. MACOMBER  
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## Message Attributes

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